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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,894	12/12/2000	Elizabeth F. Churchill	107724	5464

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EXAMINER

E. CHANTI, HUSSEIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,894

Applicant(s)

CHURCHILL ET AL.

Examiner

Hussein A El-chanti

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to application filed on Dec. 12, 2000. Claims 1-8 are pending examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,678,720 (referred to hereafter as Matsumoto).

As to claim 1, Matsumoto teaches a system that supports a document-centered discussion among heterogeneous display devices comprising:

an invitation storage memory that stores invitation information regarding invitations to discuss a document (see col. 2 lines 38-col. 3 lines 3 and col. 4 lines 1-12, designated users are notified of a storage location where the document is stored);

a view storage memory that stores view information for each active discussion (see col. 3 lines 4-33 and col. 4 lines 40-53, a web page can be used to store chat history between two users);

a controller that controls the invitation storage memory and the view storage memory to specify invitation information for at least one user specifying view information

for an accepted invitation stored in the view storage memory (see col. 3 lines 45-col. 4 lines 22).

As to claim 2, Matsumoto teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a user contact storage memory that stores user contact information, and wherein the invitation information stored in the invitation storage memory for at least one invitation includes information from the user contact storage memory (see col. 11 lines 43-61).

As to claim 3, Matsumoto teaches the system of claim 2, wherein each user contact entry of the user contact storage memory includes at least one of a user identifier and a device identifier (see col. 11 lines 43-61).

As to claim 4, Matsumoto teaches a method for supporting document-centered discussion among heterogeneous display devices, comprising:

entering invitation information to a discussion into an invitation store (see col. 2 lines 38-53);

identifying invitees to the discussion based on the invitation information in the invitation store (see col. 11 lines 43-61);

determining invitation acceptance and for accepted invitation (see col. 12 lines 34-57),

entering invitee specific information and invitation information into a view store (see col. 3 lines 45-col. 4 lines 22);

updating invitee view information based on in the current focus of attention; viewing information for the invitee based on context information of the inviter (see col. 11 lines 43-61).

As to claim 5, Matsumoto teaches the method of claim 4, further comprising displaying the document based on stored user information (see col. 12 lines 34-57).

As to claim 6, Matsumoto teaches the of claim 5, further comprising displaying the document using at least one of a device type, a device identifier and a display capability from a user contact information store (see col. 12 lines 34-57).

As to claim 7, Matsumoto teaches a method for transferring user discussion messages comprising the steps of:

receiving a message (see col. 2 lines 38-53);

determining if a message is a discussion message (see col. 12 lines 34-57);

entering the discussion message into a communication queue (see col. 12 lines 34-57);

if messages are to be removed from the queue, removing discussion messages from the queue first and removing non-discussion messages after all discussion messages have been removed (see col. 12 lines 16-26).

As to claim 8, Matsumoto teaches the method of claim 7, where the discussion message is at least one of a view information update message, an invitation message and an invitation update message (see col. 12 lines 34-57).

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Network Conference Recording System And Method Including Post-Conference Processing by Ben-Schachar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,674,459

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- Apparatus And Method For Multi-station Conferencing by Cohen, U.S. Patent No. 6,332,153
- System And Method For Providing Unified Communication Services Support by Ram et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,625,258.
- Electronic Conference System And Conference Server Apparatus by Sato et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,852,656.

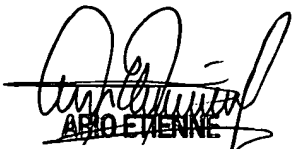
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hussein A El-chanti whose telephone number is (703)305-4652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (703)308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Hussein El-chanti

Feb. 23, 2004


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100